THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) Occasional complaints of refusal to play and of overcharging by taxi and scooter drivers are received from Delhi and New Delhi Railway Stations.

(c) The Delhi Traffic Police performs duty at the Railway Stations round the clock.

(d) A drive has been launched at all the public places including railway stations by the Delhi Traffic Police in this regard. In the first three months of 1987 288 challans for refusal were booked. Moreover, notices are being sent to three-wheeler Scooter and taxi drivers for complaints of overcharging. Announcements are also made on the public address system and complaint cards/fare charts are distributed among the public to avoid over-charging.

Reclamation of wasteland by private companies

397. SHRI J. P. GOYAL:
SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to permit private companies to take up reclamation of waste land in the country in pursuance of the recommendations made by the National Waste Land Development Board;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) what is the estimated area of degraded forest land and other degraded land likely to be covered under the reclamation programme;

(d) what is the estimated population dependent on forests which is likely to be affected as a result thereof; and

(e) what steps Government propose to take to rehabilitate the affected population?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) to (c) The Central Government are not promoting the entry of private companies to take up the reclamation of wasteland inside forests. The proposals in each State for afforestation of wastelands are dealt with by the State Governments concerned.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Release of an Indian arrested in Saudi Arabia

398. SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an Indian who was arrested in Saudi Arabia for carrying with him a copy of the Satyarth Prakash, some time ago, has since been released;

(b) whether the Indian Embassy took up the matter with the said Government;

(c) whether he was released *suo moto* on intervention or he was convicted; and

(d) if so, what are the details of the case?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The information about the arrest of the person was brought to the notice of the Ministry only in June, 1986 by the President of the Sarvadeshik Arya Prathinidhi Sabha, New Delhi. The Indian Embassy in Riyadh immediately took up the matter with the Saudi authorities. It has since been learnt that the person had